

A SERMON, &c.

EPHESIANS V. 25-27.

—*Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it ; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

To all who are assembled within these walls, but more especially to you, my brethren, by whose piety and zeal they have been reared, and who have, doubtless, for months past, anticipated the important offices of this day, with profound and prayerful solicitude ; this cannot fail to be a moment of unwonted interest, solemnity, and joy. May it also be your happiness to register it in your grateful recollection, among the most propitious ‘times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord!’

As the gratifying result of the large increase God has granted to the word of his grace among you, — of the augmented means thus placed at your disposal for promoting the wider diffusion and efficiency of evangelical truth, — and of the spontaneous liberality with which you have contributed towards the erection of this noble and enduring structure ; you are now permitted to witness its completion, and to open its portals to the thousands who, in the true spirit of Christian catholicity, hasten to testify their benignant interest in your enterprise, by uniting with us in the